

# A TOUCH OF GAS

The Newsletter of the Glasgow Archaeological Society

Issue 67 – Autumn 2011



Glasgow Archaeological Society, c/o Tho. & J.W. Barty, Solicitors, 61 High Street, Dunblane, FK15 0EH

## Lecture Programme 2011-2012

(Boyd Orr Lecture Theatre – 7.30pm)

### 2011

20 October

#### Among Stone Giants: Easter Island Explored

Lionel Masters (Past President)

14-17 November

#### *Dalrymple Lectures – See below*

#### The Settlement Record of Temperate Europe in Later Prehistory: selected aspects

Professor Ian Ralston (University of Edinburgh)

15 December *Members night*

Revisiting Crarae Derek Alexander (National Trust for Scotland)

#### The Society's Pioneering Work in Roman Archaeology: The Antonine Wall Report, 1899

Professor Lawrence Keppie (Past President)

### 2012

19 January

#### Back to the Front: the Archaeology of WWI

Dr. Tony Pollard (Centre for Battlefield Archaeology: University of Glasgow)

16 February

#### Frontier Walls of Northern Iran:

#### New Insights into the Arms Race Between the Great Powers of late Antiquity

Professor Eberhard Sauer (University of Edinburgh) who will deliver the Lecture, and

Hamid Omrani (Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation)

15 March

#### The Navan Complex, County Armagh

Professor James Malory (Queen's University, Belfast)

19 April

AGM (7.15 pm) followed by

#### My Life on the Antonine Wall

James Walker (Retiring Presidential Lecture)

### First Winter Excursion

**SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 – 11.00 am**

**New Riverside Museum, Glasgow**

Meet at the Main Entrance. It is important to know numbers attending in advance so for those who missed the October Meeting and could not sign the sheet, contact

**Margaret King – 0141-334-5174.**

***Parking is limited at the Museum and public transport by bus, train, bike, ferry or foot is recommended. Consult the website or phone Margaret for details (see also page 3).***

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/our-museums/riverside-museum/visiting/Pages/default.aspx>

### Dalrymple Lectures 2011/12

#### The Settlement Record of Temperate Europe in Later Prehistory: selected aspects

Professor Ian Ralston (University of Edinburgh)

**14<sup>th</sup> November – 6.30** – *War and Peace and the Study of west-central European hillforts*

**15<sup>th</sup> November – 6.30** – *Living in the Iron Age: styles of habitation*

**16<sup>th</sup> November – 6.30** – *Case Studies in Complexity 1: Bourges-Avaricum and the princely seats of the sixth and fifth centuries BC*

**17<sup>th</sup> November – 7.30** – *Case Studies in Complexity 2: oppida and other settlements in the last two centuries*

***The venue for the Dalrymple Series will be the Sir Charles Wilson Lecture Theatre, University of Glasgow (Corner of Gibson Street and University Avenue)***

Keep up to date with Society with Society Activities on our website – [www.glasarchsoc.org.uk](http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk)

## Dr. Alexander (Alex) Morrison – A Tribute

It was with great sorrow and a deep sense of loss that the Society learned of the death, in September, of Dr Alex Morrison, a past president of the Glasgow Archaeological Society.

Alex held the position of president from 1997 to 2000 and it was during his presidency that he was instrumental in the introduction of the President's Award. This award is presented by the outgoing president at the end of their term of office and is given to a member of the society who has made an outstanding contribution to archaeology in Scotland. This award in itself speaks of the nature of Alex Morrison who, throughout his career, was committed to encouraging others to become involved in and develop archaeology both as a hugely interesting hobby as well as an academic study.

In 1961 after having worked for a time for the Cooperative Wholesale Society, Alex entered academia as a mature student, studying Geography and Archaeology. He was one of the first four students in Glasgow University's newly formed Department of Archaeology under the tutelage of Dr Horace Fairhurst. Soon after graduating Alex became a lecturer in that self-same department. He was best known for his work on the earliest inhabitants of Scotland and his book *Early Man in Britain and Ireland* became a standard textbook on the subject. He pioneered the study of the recently extinct, ancient highland crofting culture which had, until then, been dismissed by many academics as 'folk studies'. His ground-breaking work is now being carried on by several archaeologists. He was also involved, from its inception in 1976, with the Certificate of Field Archaeology course which trained adults to be active participants in the profession.

As a member of the Society for many years, Alex gave of his time and talents in promoting the work of the society and assisting in its operation. He was, for ten years, co-editor, alongside Dr Euan MacKie, of the Glasgow Archaeological Journal. Alex, when his health allowed, was a regular attender at lecture meetings and is greatly missed by his friends within the society.

He is survived by his wife Sigrid and sons Christopher and Michael to whom we extend our deepest condolences.

James Walker, President.

## Presidential Award for 2010 – 2012

This year will again be one in which the Society presents a Presidential Award. This award was the inspiration of our Past President, Dr. Alex Morrison to recognise and celebrate some of the outstanding personalities and individuals who have contributed to the life and work of the Society, and/or to the regional and national world of Scottish archaeology. It remains a fitting tribute to Alex and his commitment to Archaeology and this Society.

In previous years this has taken the form of a mosaic plaque by the outstanding Scottish mosaicist, Dugie MacInnes.

The terms of the award are –

1. The Award will be to an individual who has forwarded the study of and rendered conspicuous services to archaeology in Scotland.
2. The individual must be a member of the Society.
3. The award will be presented in the final year of the President's term of Office, and the ceremony will normally precede the final lecture of their term of Office.
4. Nominations for the Award may be submitted by a Society member on prepared Nomination Forms and notice of the Award will be advertised during the President's final term of office.
5. The final decision will be made by a simple majority of Council Members; the President casting the deciding vote of there is no majority.

The Form below should be E-mailed (or handed at a Lecture) to Jim Walker or posted to the Glasgow Archaeological Society, c/o Tho. & J.W. Barty, Solicitors, 61 High Street, Dunblane, FK15 0EH by **31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**.

### Nomination Form for the Presidential Award 2010-2012

✂.....

I/We would like to nominate ..... for the 2010-2012 Presidential Award of the Glasgow Archaeological Society.

No detailed supporting case need be attached, but if nominees wish to include a brief endorsement of their candidate, they are welcome to do so.

### The Dalrymple Lecture Fund

Jointly with Glasgow University the Society administers The Dalrymple Lecture Fund, a generous bequest by James Dalrymple to finance a series of free public Lectures on European topics of historic and archaeological interest.

The first Lecture Series was delivered in 1907, and recent speakers have included Lord Colin Renfrew, Dr. Chris Stringer, Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, Professor Ian Hodder and Professor David Breeze. This year's Speaker is Professor Ian Ralston.

The Fund also generously supports the publication of the Scottish Archaeological Journal.

### The Dalrymple/Donaldson Fund

In addition to the Dalrymple Lecture Fund, James Dalrymple left money in trust, later greatly augmented by Professor Gordon Donaldson, formerly Historiographer Royal, to provide funds to assist with the renovation and repair of buildings of historic or architectural importance.

Further details may be obtained from the Fund Secretary – Mr. J Scott Wood, Tigh na Fiodh, Insh, Kingussie, Inverness-shire, PH21 1NU. Applications require to be submitted by the end of October in any year.

## Electronic Communication

For the past year we have been sending out E-mails to the many members who have subscribed to this service, reminding them of the forthcoming lecture and this has proved highly successful. The system also provides the facility to update members on items of interest that emerge between issues of *A Touch of GAS*.

I do not think there has been a single occasion when I have passed an issue to the printer only thereafter to be informed of an event that could have been included had I had more notice, such as conferences, lectures, etc! Very often the Society receives very short notice of events such as an open day at a dig.

These cannot be accommodated within the present format of twice-yearly issues of *A Touch of GAS*, but can within a system of *E-Bulletins*, and although publicised at lectures many members otherwise miss out on useful information.

A current example is the Lecture Notes which we used to include within *A Touch of GAS*. For various reasons, totally unrelated to the development of *E-Bulletins* these are not now available in time for this issue, but when they become available will be included within the electronic reminders.

We would urge members if possible to subscribe which can be done through the website, as Council hopes to develop this further in the future. Council accepts that members may be either unable or unwilling to receive *E-Bulletins* (it is astonishing how quickly one's "Inbox" fills up!) and that is their right. We can assure members that they will not be disadvantaged by not subscribing inasmuch as they will continue to receive twice-yearly Newsletters.

Dale Bilisland

## Bits of News

### Change of Address

With immediate effect the registered address of the Society is now –

The Glasgow Archaeological Society,  
c/o Tho. & J.W. Barty,  
Solicitors,  
61 High Street,  
Dunblane,  
FK15 0EH

### The Romans are Back!

Following refurbishment the Hunterian now has a new permanent gallery showcasing its unique collection of monumental sculpture and other artefacts recovered from the Antonine Wall.

Tuesdays-Saturdays 10.00am – 5.00pm;  
Sundays 11.00am – 4.00pm

Admission Free

[www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian)

### Riverside Museum

#### Scotland's Museum of Transport and Travel

This opened to great fanfare earlier this year and is proving so popular it just had to be the first for this season's great excursions. See details on Page 1 to join this guided tour, but to get there (parking is limited so check routes and timetables first!) –

**Bus** – First Bus Service 100, via George Square, Kelvingrove and Partick

**Rail/Underground** – Partick Station

**Boat** – from Govan or Broomielaw

**Bike** – National Cycle Route 7

**Foot** – follow signs from Kelvingrove and Partick

## Divine Write

The King James Bible and Scotland  
An Exhibition to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

9<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
Mitchell Library, North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN

The "King James Bible" (known later as the "Authorized Version") was first printed in 1611 an outcome of the Reformation and for centuries has had a powerful impact on Scotland, her people, her culture and religious life.

[www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries)

## Cathcart and Queen's Park Heritage Walk

On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 the last event on our Winter Programme was a guided walk round part of Cathcart and Queen's Park, led by Ian Marshall, a past President of GAS.

The group met at Cathcart Old Parish Church where we viewed the building and the church yard through the railings, as the site is closed for health and safety reasons. From here we walked on to the Snuff Mill Bridge, where we viewed some interesting buildings on the banks of the White Cart water, including the former mill. Onwards and upwards to the site of Old Cathcart Castle, where Ian provided a history of the castle and its occupants. Our next stop was the Queen's Knowe, where Mary Queen of Scots viewed the Battle of Langside until she had to make a hasty retreat as her army was being defeated.

Lunch time was spent at the 1905 Glasshouses in Queen's Park, where refreshments were enjoyed. From the front of the Glasshouses the battle site and its present day monument was explained by Ian. Our next stop was Camphill Earthworks in Queen's Park where the upstanding features were explained to us. The day was rounded off with a visit to Langside Library where Alison Brown, a member of the society, described the battle as depicted on a large painting in the library.

Our grateful thanks to Ian and Alison for providing us with such an interesting and informative guided walk, enjoyed by all who took part.



## Forth & Clyde Canal Walk: Port Dundas to Kelvin Aqueduct



This event had been planned to take place in May, but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to ill health on my part. As a number of members and their friends had expressed an interest in doing the 4½ mile walk, it was re-scheduled to Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Our starting point was Speirs Wharf, Port Dundas where the historical background of the building of the Forth & Clyde Canal and the many buildings that formed Speirs Wharf was explained. Today the buildings have been converted into luxury apartments and flats. When the canal was completed in 1790, it became for a time the super-highway of its day for passenger and goods traffic. Port Dundas became the port for Glasgow on the canal due to its close proximity to the city centre. Sandstone, timber and coal were all brought to the city by barge and distributed from here by horse and cart.

Our easy walk along the tow-path allowed us to view the skyline of Glasgow from different angles. At Firhill, apart from seeing the hallowed ground and stadium of Partick Thistle FC founded in 1876, we saw the large timber basin where wood was left for seasoning in the water before being sent to one of the many neighbouring saw mills. Thriving industries once existed along the canal with a power station, distilleries, foundries, chemical works, glass works and a rubber works all providing employment in this area.

Many features of the canal were pointed out along the way including bascule bridges and aqueducts that had to be replaced to allow tramcars to operate below them in the Maryhill area. Towards the end of our journey, we reached Lock 21 at Maryhill which is at the western end of the summit of the Forth & Clyde Canal. Beyond the five locks all close together, we saw the smallest dry dock on the canal where boats could be repaired.

Our final stop was to view the Kelvin Aqueduct. This feat of civil engineering was the largest of its kind in Britain when built between 1787 and 1790. It had been estimated at £6,200 and ended up costing £8,500 - not quite on the scale of the Edinburgh tram system! Visitors came from all over the country to marvel at sailing ships and barges crossing the four arched aqueduct, 70 feet above the River Kelvin. The canal had a vibrant and profitable life until the coming of the railways in the early 1840s after which passenger traffic ceased and revenue was largely derived from goods. The canal finally closed in January, 1963.

The weather was kind to us on the day and the thirteen participants enjoyed their walk.

*The above two articles were contributed by Jim Walker*

## First Summer Excursion of 2011.

On Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, forty members and friends set off on the first GAS excursion of 2011. Our first stop of the day was Kinross where we boarded Historic Scotland's ferries for the short journey over to Castle Island on the loch.



It was here that Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned in 1567 by its Lord, Sir William Douglas, and from where she made her dramatic escape a year later.

We were fortunate in having Margaret Lumsdaine, President of the Marie Stuart Society, as our very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide. Members had the opportunity to explore the castle's surviving buildings and structures including the tower house, the upper apartments of which had been Mary's prison for most of her stay there.



After lunch we journeyed southwards to the Royal Burgh of Culross on the northern shore of the Forth.

Guides from the National Trust took the group on a walking tour of this picturesque and historic village - the most complete example in Scotland today of a Burgh of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.



This was followed by a conducted tour around the Palace of Culross - built between 1597 and 1611 by George Bruce, a prosperous merchant. The buildings of the Palace with their fine interior furnishings and rooms with painted wooden walls, beams and ceilings were impressive and of great interest to the group.

Later members had an opportunity to visit the Abbey and also an early Christian chapel before enjoying welcome refreshments in the warmth of the National Trust tearoom.

Due to the fascinating venues and the informative guides all agreed that it had been a very enjoyable and successful excursion despite the extreme cold!

*All part of a busy summer for members of the Society, particularly our indefatigable President Jim Walker and Margaret King (who contributed the above article) and the Excursions Committee.*

## **More Bits**

### **Membership Renewals**

Subscriptions are now due and early renewal helps the Society. If you have not already done so change your Standing Order arrangements at your Bank and ask Susan Hunter for a Gift Aid Form!

### **Dates for the Diary**

**Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 (11.00 am)** – Denny Tank in Dumbarton and optional visit to Dumbarton Rock

**First Summer Excursion** being arranged for early June as a weekend trip to Inverness area including guided visit to Culloden.

Details to follow

### **Data Protection Act**

Members are reminded of the Society's Policy under this Act.

Members' details are held electronically in computer and are used solely for administrative purposes of the Society. Details are not provided to any outside body other than Edinburgh University Press for the purposes of distribution of the Scottish Archaeological Journal.

Any member who wishes to exercise the right to have his or her name excluded from the database should contact Susan Hunter, the Membership Secretary

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions are published in good faith. Views expressed by individual contributors are not necessarily those of The Glasgow Archaeological Society or its Council. It is assumed that Contributors have obtained all necessary consent from other parties or Organisations to whom reference is made.

Material can be supplied by "hard copy" but CD is preferred (Word) to save retyping! A hard copy would be appreciated with a CD. Photographs and drawings are welcome (preferably in "pdf" format).

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